United Nations S/RES/1716 (2006)

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 October 2006

# Resolution 1716 (2006)

## Adopted by the Security Council at its 5549th meeting, on 13 October 2006

*The Security Council*,

*Recalling* all its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 1666 of 31 March 2006 (S/RES/1666),

*Welcoming* the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia of 28 September 2006,

*Supporting* the sustained efforts of the Secretary-General and of his Special Representative with the assistance of the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator, as well as of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General and of the OSCE,

*Regretting* the continued lack of progress on key issues of a comprehensive settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict,

*Acknowledging* with concern the observation of the Secretary-General that a new and tense situation has emerged between the Georgian and the Abkhaz sides, in particular as a result of the Georgian special operation in the upper Kodori Valley,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders, and *supports* all efforts by the United Nations and the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General which are guided by their determination to promote a settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict only by peaceful means and within the framework of the Security Council resolutions;

2. *Recalls*, with a view to achieving a lasting and comprehensive settlement, its support for the principles contained in the "Paper on Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competencies between Tbilisi and Sukhumi" and welcomes additional ideas that the sides would be willing to offer with a view to conducting creatively and constructively a political dialogue under the aegis of the United Nations;

3. *Having in mind* the relevant Security Council resolutions containing an appeal to both sides to refrain from any action that might impede the peace process, *expresses* its concern with regard to the actions of the Georgian side in the Kodori Valley in July 2006, and to all violations of the Moscow agreement on ceasefire and

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separation of forces of 14 May 1994, and other Georgian-Abkhaz agreements concerning the Kodori Valley;

4. *Urges* the Georgian side to ensure that the situation in the upper Kodori Valley is in line with the Moscow agreement and that no troops unauthorized by this agreement are present;

5. *Notes* with satisfaction the resumption of joint patrols in the upper Kodori Valley by UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force and reaffirms that such joint patrols should be conducted on a regular basis;

6. *Urges* both parties to comply fully with previous agreement and understandings regarding ceasefire, non-use of violence and confidence-building measures, and *stresses* the need to strictly observe the Moscow Agreement on Ceasefire and the Separation of Forces in the air, on the sea and on land, including in the Kodori Valley;

7. *Acknowledges* the important role of the CIS peacekeeping force and of UNOMIG in the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone, *stresses* the importance of close and effective cooperation between UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force as they currently play a stabilizing role in the conflict zone, *looks* to all sides to continue to extend the necessary cooperation to them and *recalls* that a lasting and comprehensive settlement of the conflict will require appropriate security guarantees;

8. *Once again urges* the Georgian side to address seriously legitimate Abkhaz security concerns, to avoid steps which could be seen as threatening and to refrain from militant rhetoric and provocative actions, especially in upper Kodori Valley;

9. *Urges* the Abkhaz leadership to address seriously the need for a dignified return of IDPs and refugees, including their security and human rights concerns, publicly reassure the local population, particularly in the Gali district, that their residency rights and identity will be respected, and move without delay on implementing past commitments relating to United Nations police advisers, a United Nations human rights sub-office and the language of instruction;

10. *Urges* both parties to finalize without delay the package of documents on the non-use of violence and on the return of refugees and internally displaced persons for the Gali district and to undertake necessary steps to secure the protection and dignity of the civilian population including the returnees;

11. *Commends* the presentation by both sides of ideas as a basis for dialogue and *calls on* the two sides to resume this dialogue by using all existing mechanisms as described in the relevant Security Council resolutions in order to come to a peaceful settlement;

12. *Calls on* both parties to follow up on their expressed readiness for a meeting of their highest authorities without preconditions and to maintain open channels of communication to build confidence, and *encourages* further contacts between representatives of civil society;

13. *Calls* on the Secretary-General to explore with the sides ways and means to build confidence, in particular by improving welfare and security of the inhabitants of Gali and Zugdidi districts;

14. *Supports* all efforts by the Georgian and Abkhaz sides to engage constructively in economic cooperation as envisaged in the Geneva meetings and complemented by the working groups established in Sotchi in March 2003, including, security conditions permitting, the rehabilitation of infrastructure, and welcomes the intention expressed by Germany to host a meeting on economic cooperation and confidence-building measures, pending progress in the conflict resolution process;

15. *Underlines* that it is the primary responsibility of both sides to provide appropriate security and to ensure the freedom of movement of UNOMIG, the CIS peacekeeping force and other international personnel and *calls on* both sides to fulfil their obligations in this regard;

16. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by UNOMIG to implement the Secretary-General's zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, *requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and *urges* troop-contributing countries to take appropriate preventive action including the conduct of predeployment awareness training, and to take disciplinary action and other action to ensure full accountability in cases of such conduct involving their personnel;

17. *Decides* to extend the mandate of UNOMIG for a new period terminating on 15 April 2007;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include detailed information on developments in the Kodori Valley and on the progress on efforts for return of refugees and IDPs particularly to the Gali district into his next report on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia;

19. *Strongly supports* the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and calls on the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General to continue giving him their steadfast and unified support;

20. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.